

THE RELATION OF AIR INTELLIGENCE TO JOINT ARMY-NAVY INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

I Need for a permanent Joint Intelligence Studies Publishing Board

A comparison of a War Department (MIS) Survey or a Naval Intelligence Monograph of pre-JISPB date with one of the recent JANIS publications is testimony enough to the wisdom of preparing topographical intelligence under a single joint agency. The present JISPB is an editorial, production, and planning staff to which an equal number of personnel - civilian or military - is furnished by A-2, G-2, DNI, OSS, and OGE. Each study contains 15 chapters, following a standard outline, and contains all available general, and a great deal of specific data necessary for the planning and prosecution of military operations. Since the formation of JISPB in the middle of 1943, thinking about topographical intelligence has advanced considerably; if the old, inefficient, separate system of monographs and surveys were revived, the hard-earned experience of 1943-45 would be almost entirely lost.

A primary requisite for adequate military planning is complete and orderly topographical information on those areas of the world where operations may conceivably take place at some future date. Topographical information here signifies all data which bear upon the conduct of land, sea, or air operations, including terrain, climate, hydrography, communications, ports, airfields, sanitation, and other topics. It is obvious that every possible source - military, naval, civil governmental, academic, scientific, commercial - must be tapped to produce a complete study. It is obvious too that much of the skill and professional experience needed for the more technical subjects is logically and more economically to be found in extra-military agencies. Yet the direction of such studies, in order that their primary purpose may be realized, should be vested in a joint Army-Navy-Air Force control.

II Air Force participation

The original JISPB of mid-1943 had no Air Intelligence participation whatsoever. This defect was remedied several months later by inclusion of A-2 on the Board and by assignment of the Army (Air) Chapter to that agency. However, it was still later when Army and Navy Air were combined into a single Air Facility Chapter compiled jointly by the A-2 and DNI airfield sections (later amalgamated under the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations). No JANIS study is complete without Air Intelligence participation; many topics outside of the Air Facilities Chapter are of interest to the Air Forces and their proper treatment from an Air standpoint requires active participation of Air Intelligence representatives. The same considerations which have made a separate Air Intelligence Agency necessary - adequate attention to such topics as targets, airfields, radar, etc. - make the representation of Air Intelligence in any Joint Intelligence undertaking essential.

At present the Army Air Forces contributes two important sections to JANIS - Chapter V (Climate and Weather) and Chapter XIV (Air Facilities); only the latter is furnished by A-2. The former is prepared by the AAF Weather Division. The chief source of intelligence for JANIS - now dealing almost exclusively with Japanese-occupied territory - is aerial photography. Because of organizational difficulties, it is felt that full utilization of photographs and photo-interpretations has not been made for JANIS. Air Intelligence might make a further contribution, preferably jointly with the Navy, to JANIS, if the problems of

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the widely-scattered contributors could be submitted in an orderly manner to photo-interpretation. A further service, the planning of photo-missions which might help to answer questions well in advance of publication date, might more properly be the province of A-2 working closely with the overseas air forces, than G-2. Experience in all war theaters has demonstrated that the right to 'lay on' photo reconnaissance, properly applied, tremendously aids the work of long, as well as short-range, intelligence. A slight adjustment in reconnaissance mission priorities in the Japan theater could, in many cases, have improved the quality of JANIS. While no attempt is made here to recommend organizational links between the present JTO and JISPB, it must be admitted that considerable duplication exists, that is, duplication on the basic research level. It is felt that the post-war future of any Target Section should be inextricably bound up with a JISPB.

One topic with respect to airfields of vital importance to JANIS is airfield site research. At present most of this work is being done in a general way by the Military Geology Unit, Geological Survey, in the Department of Interior, but working directly under the Strategic Intelligence Division of the Office, Chief of Engineers; much specific choosing of sites is handled by the Air Engineer (AGAS/MAS). Informal liaison between Air Movements Branch and these two organizations exists, but it is apparent that full use is not being made of the source material here available. The Strategic Engineering Studies produced by OCE under a different format and priority from JANIS deal, among other topics, with 'areas possibly suitable for airfield construction'. It is believed that more adequate site research could be carried on if the three agencies primarily concerned were more closely tied together. In the post-war organization, airfield site research should be a part of airfield intelligence with competent geologists and engineers assigned, perhaps on a loan basis. This function should be closely allied to other terrain research destined for JANIS.

III Conclusion

- (1) That full participation, on an equal footing with other intelligence services, should be undertaken in JISPB (or its post-war successor), by A-2.
- (2) That that participation should be charged to Airfield Intelligence with particular emphasis on existing airfields and air routes, and airfield site research.
- (3) That provision be made in that participation for A-2 control of climatological material furnished to JANIS by AAF Weather Division; and photo-intelligence needed for the basic research of all JANIS contributors.
- (4) That post-war target research be closely associated with topographical research produced by ground intelligence agencies for JANIS.
- (5) That Air Plans communicate through A-2 all needs for topographical intelligence material which JISPB may produce.

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